

# **The peculiarities of computer slang as a specific subsystem of the English language**



- The *topicality* is supported by:
  - huge popularity of computer technologies among all groups of people in our society
  - popularity of some words connected with the sphere of computers especially among young generation and their gradual transition into everyday speech
- The *object* is:
  - the non-literary and unstable layer of the English vocabulary



- The *subject* is:
  - computer slang as a subsystem of the English language.
  
- The *goal* is:
  - To study the role and functions of computer slang as a subsystem of the English language by means of investigating its structural, stylistic and functional features



- The *objectives* are:
  - to define slang and state the interrelations between such notions as slang, jargon and argot;
  - to establish the place and functions fulfilled by slang in different layers of the society;
  - to study existing classifications of slang and define the place of computer slang within them;
  - to follow the timeline of computer slang development;
  - to reveal computer slang as a language subsystem relying upon its functions and peculiarities.



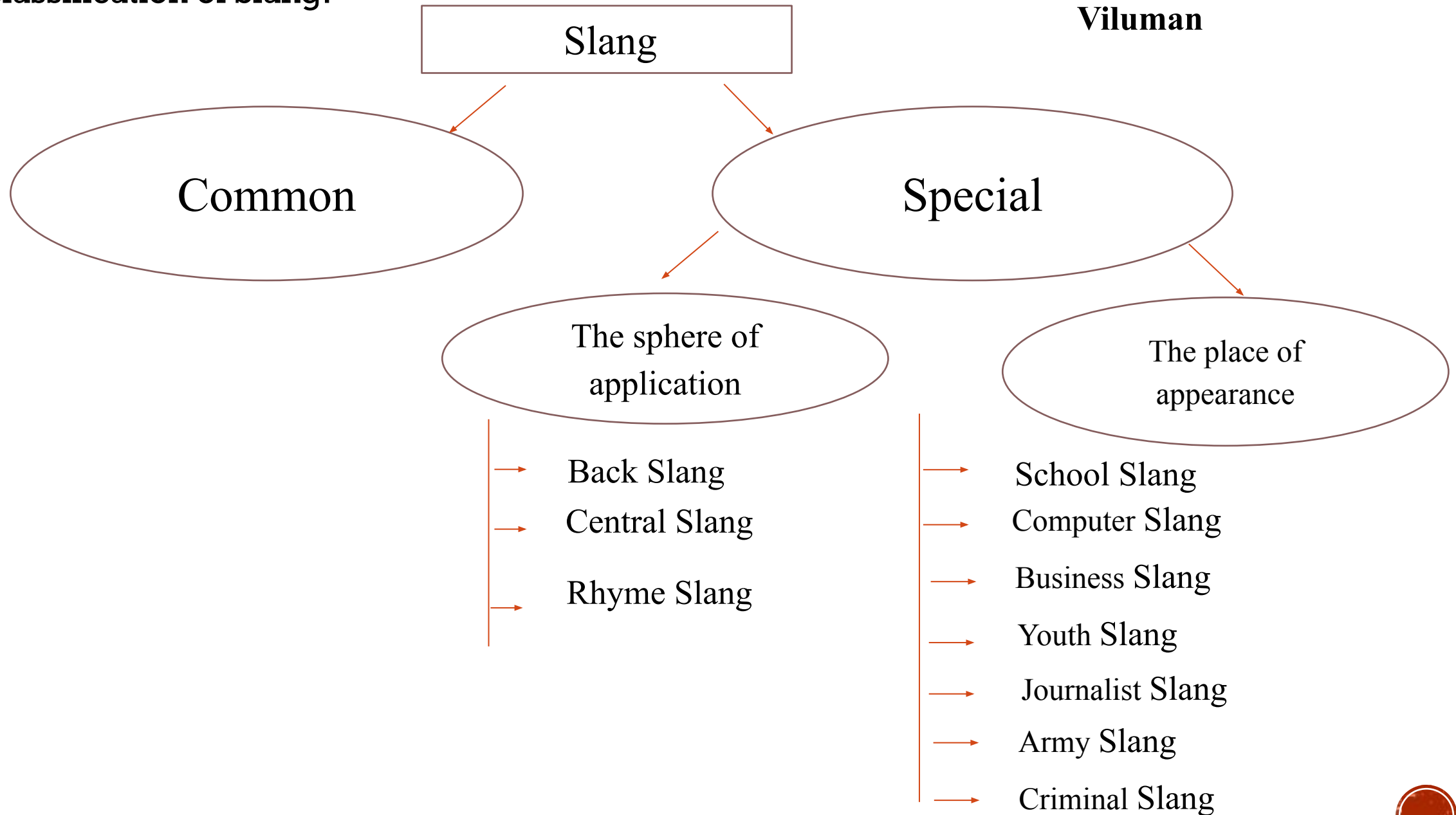
■ *Slang (first recorded in the XVI century)* is:

- an independent language subsystem possessing some grammatical, phonetic and lexical standards, which includes both foreignisms and peculiarities typical of the language under discussion particularly.



■ The classification of Slang:

Combined classification by I.V. Arnold and V.G. Viluman



- Slang by *Soviet School* (narrower meaning):
  - Part of common everyday language emotionally coloured
- Slang by *Foreign School* (*wider meaning*):
  - Language typical of a particular group of people mainly



Jargon

Slang

*Belonging to a definite  
social-group*

*Emotionally-coloured  
character*

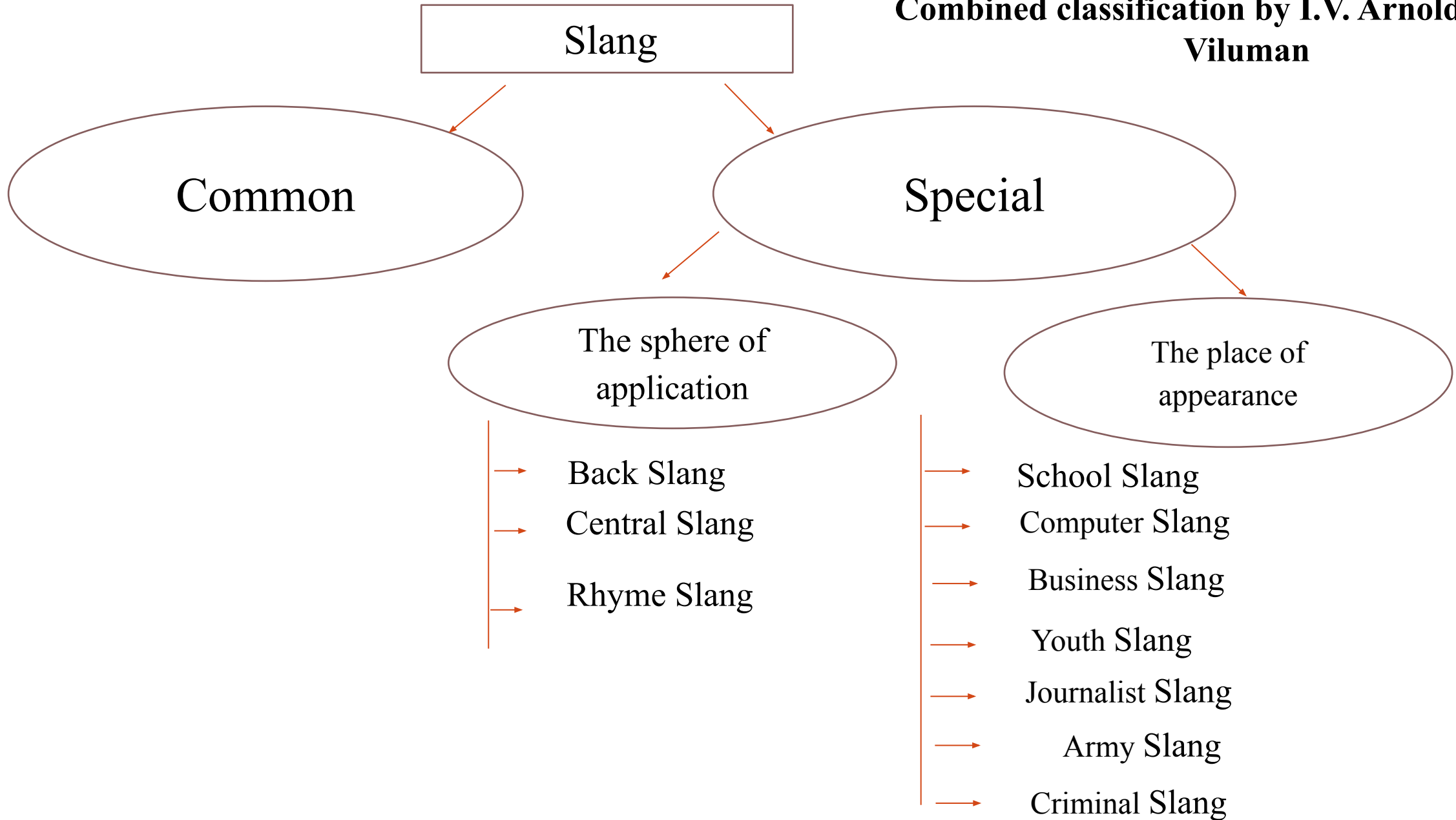
Argot

Vulgarisms





**Combined classification by I.V. Arnold and V.G. Viluman**



# Slang functions

(combined approaches by G.R. Ivanova and U.V. Lapteva)

**Communicative**

**Expressive**

**Nominative**

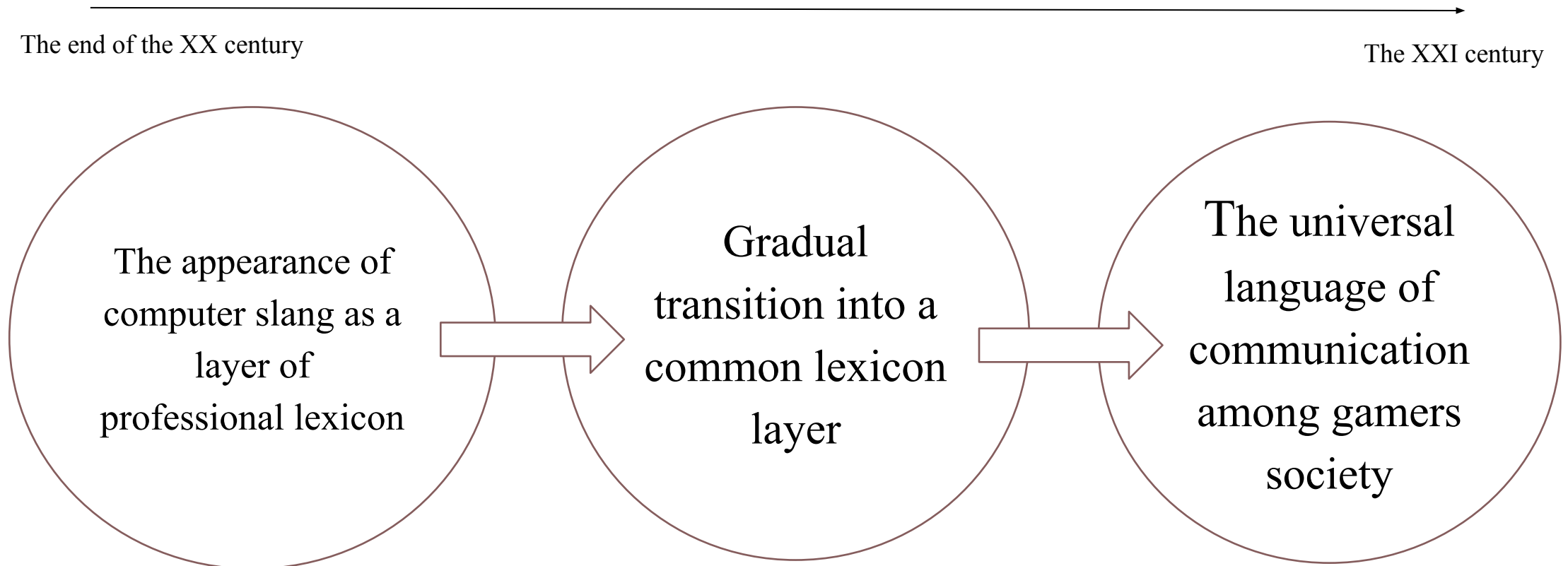
**Cognitive**

**Identification**

**Time saving**



# Computer Slang Development



■ NO CARRIER → «НО КАРЬЕР»  
= the absence of Internet connection

■ Attach → «АТТАЧ» = an attached  
file to an e-mail message



# Computer Slang functions

Slang functions	Computer Slang functions	Examples
Communicative	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ROFL</li><li>• AFK</li></ul>
Expressive	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smurfing</li><li>• Noob</li></ul>
Nominative	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Utility</li><li>• Shareware</li></ul>
Identification	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nerd / gamer</li><li>• Spammer</li><li>• Camper</li></ul>
Time saving	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobo – mother board</li><li>• F2P - Free to play</li></ul>
Cognitive	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easter egg</li><li>• Surf</li><li>• Hung</li></ul>



# Computer Slang Classification

(according to F.O. Smirnov)

<b>By the method of word-formation</b>	<b>Simple words</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Guru</b></li><li>• <b>scrog</b></li><li>• <b>Barf</b></li></ul>
	<b>Derivatives</b>	<b>Affixation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Authorization</b></li><li>• <b>Encryption</b></li><li>• <b>Typo</b></li><li>• <b>Superuser</b></li></ul>
		<b>Composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Backdoor</b></li><li>• <b>Renderfarm</b></li><li>• <b>Downloadaphobia</b></li></ul>
		<b>Abbreviation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>KDA – kill-death ratio</b></li><li>• <b>H/A – help and advice</b></li><li>• <b>DISPID - dispatcher identifier</b></li></ul>
	<b>Composed terms</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dancing baloney</b></li><li>• <b>Open-world</b></li><li>• <b>Angry garden salad</b></li></ul>

# Computer Slang Classification

(according to P.V. Likholtov)

<b>By the method of translation into Russian</b>	<b>Calque</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Device</b> – девайс</li><li>• <b>Damage</b> – дамаг</li><li>• <b>Screen shot</b> – скрин шот</li></ul>
	<b>Semi-calque</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>User's manual</b> – мануалка</li><li>• <b>Menu</b> – менюшка</li><li>• <b>To connect</b> - коннектиться</li></ul>
	<b>Translation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Disk</b> – болванка</li><li>• <b>Patch file</b> – заплатка</li><li>• <b>System unit</b> – системный блок</li></ul>
	<b>Phonetic mimicry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Button</b> – батон</li><li>• <b>Adobe Acrobat</b> – Акробат</li><li>• <b>Storage</b> – сторож</li></ul>



# Computer Slang Classification

(according to O.A.  
Karmyzova)

**By the  
thematic  
features**

**According to the names of details**

- **Duster**
- **Comptar**
- **Mac**

**According to the support  
programs**

- **E – crack**
- **Vrrv.rr**
- **Tcl**

**According to the operations  
and individual actions**

- **Farming**
- **Flaming**
- **Nerf**

**According to the people  
involved in a particular type  
of activity**

- **Geek**
- **Dave**
- **Scuh**

**According to the names of  
companies**

- **AOL – America Online**
- **DIFS - division of iPod & family services**





■ *Subsystem* is:

- an integration of relatively homogeneous language elements possessing a definite hierarchy between its own elements and also between the elements of higher and lower levels



Subsystem features	Computer Slang having subsystem features	Argument
The combination of relatively homogeneous elements.	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Words are closely connected with the computer sphere and united in small groups</li> <li>• :^D and ROFL as a substitution for laugh</li> <li>• a raw of synonyms for existing words: zombie - zomb, zomboid, zombieman or iZombie</li> </ul>
The limited number of users	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmers</li> <li>• Players</li> <li>• Users of computer technology</li> </ul>



Subsystem features	Computer having features	Slang subsystem	Argument
The set of special functions		+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communicative</b></li> <li>• <b>Expressive</b></li> <li>• <b>Nominative</b></li> <li>• <b>Time Saving</b></li> </ul>
The <b>hierarchy of its elements</b>		+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Phonemes in the image of graphemes –</b>  <b>&gt;word -&gt; phrase or word combination –</b>  <b>&gt; sentence</b></li> </ul>
The special factors of appearance and development		+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stability</b></li> <li>• <b>Variability</b></li> <li>• <b>Interaction with internal and external linguistic units.</b></li> </ul>



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME  
AND ATTENTION**

